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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. No attempt at collectivization was made in the Carpatho-Ukraine until 1947. Up to that time the average farm had consisted of 8 to 10 hectares, and anyone who owned more than that amount of land was considered a kulak. [REDACTED] never heard of any instance where a kulak was exiled to Siberia or any other place.) The first collective farm was formed from among about 20 families of Bulgarians who were living in the area. These Bulgarians were engaged primarily in raising fruits and vegetables, and they were already living in a collective atmosphere. This first collective farm (1/n Dimitrova) was given all the equipment it needed and all necessary seed free of charge. Consequently, the harvest was much greater than these people had ever experienced. Inasmuch as they were permitted to dispose of their products as they wished and to keep all of the proceeds, these Bulgarian families fared extremely well, making 80,000-100,000 rubles for the year. At the government's invitation, these Bulgarian families constructed new homes on the main thoroughfare in Mukachevo. This, of course, was an attempt by the government to publicize the advantages of a collective farm; although some people were thus tempted to join a collective farm, most of them still adamantly refused.
 2. The government's next effort at collectivization (1947-1948) was in the area of Velikiye Luchki, which had the richest soil in the Carpatho-Ukraine. As soon as the government had a bare minimum of volunteers, the land of both those who volunteered and of those who refused to join was turned into a collective farm. By the end of 1948 about 20 kolkhozy, principally on the richest land, were in operation. Just as the Bulgarians had been given equipment and seed free of charge, so were the people on these 20 collective farms. These collective farmers were promised that they would be able to keep all

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their harvest for the next five years, and the government did not demand any grain deliveries from them

In 1948 the members of these 20 collective farms earned from 15-20 kg. of grain per work day. In 1949, because of the imposition of various types of "necessary and urgent projects", payment was reduced to 12 kg. per work day. By 1950 this had been further reduced to 8 kg. per work day, and in 1951 these people received only about 1½ kg. per work day.

3. By 1949 the government had made very little headway in organizing the rest of the Carpatho-Ukraine into collective farms, although some of the people were induced to join after having seen the huge payments per work day received by workers on these 20 kolkhozy. The government then resorted to other methods. It told those who had refused to join that they had to make grain deliveries to the state for the land which they claimed was theirs. It did these people no good when they protested that their land had been collectivized and that they had been forbidden to work on it. They were compelled to surrender much of their reserve grain or join the kolkhoz, so that quite a few of them gave in and joined. Another method employed by the government was to send recalcitrant farmers out to work in the forests during the winter. These people were given fantastic norms to fill, and when they failed to fulfill these norms (which was almost always the case) they were brought to court on charges of economic sabotage. After these charges were read in public, the "saboteurs" were taken aside and told that if they agreed to join the kolkhoz the charges would be dropped. Of course many people had no choice but to agree. [redacted] was entered forcibly [redacted] by government agitators [redacted], under threat of violence, was compelled to join the kolkhoz. There were also many rumors that kulaks were to be deported to Siberia, and this also caused many people to join the kolkhozy.

4. Thus, by promises, cajolery, threats, and even open violence, the government had succeeded in collectivizing about 90% of the land by the end of 1949. Those who joined a collective farm, after the original 20 kolkhozy had been formed around Velikiye Luchki, were given no promises that they could keep their harvest for the next five years. Furthermore, they were given only one-quarter hectare of land on which to do their own planting instead of the full hectare of land given those who joined in the beginning. In 1951, those who had joined the collective farm after 1948 earned only 200-300 g. of grain per work day.

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